

## Brantford man charged in woman's murder

*Hamilton Spectator*  
(Aug 17, 2007)

A middle-aged Brantford house painter who lives in his parents' basement is charged with the murder of a Hamilton single mother whose body was dumped in rural Ancaster months ago.

Alfred Bernhard Napierala, 40, appeared in a Hamilton court yesterday, accused of the first-degree murder of Cynthia Watson, 35, mother of a seven-year-old boy. He has also been charged with interfering with human remains. Napierala was arrested Wednesday in St. George at the fish and chips shop where he ate lunch with co-workers every day since the start of summer.

Homicide investigators said yesterday that forensic evidence helped crack the case, but refused to reveal how they believe Watson was killed.

The exotic dancer's partly clad body was found in a wooded area off Powerline Road West by a passerby on Jan. 7. At the time, police said she had been seen earlier with a group of people in Seductions, the Brantford strip club where she worked.

Police appealed to the public to help find some of her belongings, including a backpack and winter jacket. The backpack was located, but investigators continue to search for the jacket.

Acting Detective Sergeant Kevin Stanley of the major crimes unit said Napierala turned out to be the last person in contact with Watson.

"From what we know, the two met on Jan. 5," Stanley said.

"He was the last person who was known to see her."

Napierala, originally considered a witness, became a suspect last month after a number of police interviews.

Evidence from the OPP's forensic laboratories in Orillia and Toronto's Centre of Forensic Sciences was used to charge him.

"I'm not going to get into details of what forensics we obtained," Stanley said.

Napierala, who has thick, dark hair and a stocky build, made his first appearance in court dressed in a white, paint-splattered T-shirt and light-coloured pants.

He was remanded in custody until Aug. 23, when he's to appear from the jail through closed-circuit television.

"He denies the allegation and I intend to defend him vigorously," said defence lawyer Beth Bromberg, who has not yet received disclosure of the Crown's case against her client.

For the past three years, Napierala had been living in the basement of his parents' home on Baldwin Avenue in south Brantford.

Neighbours of the well-kept bungalow, surrounded by clumps of black-eyed Susans and a dozen rose of Sharon bushes in full bloom, seemed unaware Napierala had been living there.

Alfred Napierala said yesterday his son grew up in Brantford, graduating from North Park Collegiate and Vocational School.

Father and son worked together at a now-defunct trailer manufacturing firm until the younger Napierala moved to Toronto, where he worked a variety of jobs and occasionally as a disc jockey.

He spent five years living with a woman in Mississauga before the relationship broke down and he returned to live with his parents.

"I just can't believe it. He likes cats and animals," the senior Napierala said. "I was as stunned as anything to hear that he had been arrested."

[pmorse@thespec.com](mailto:pmorse@thespec.com) (mailto:pmorse@thespec.com) 905-526-3434

